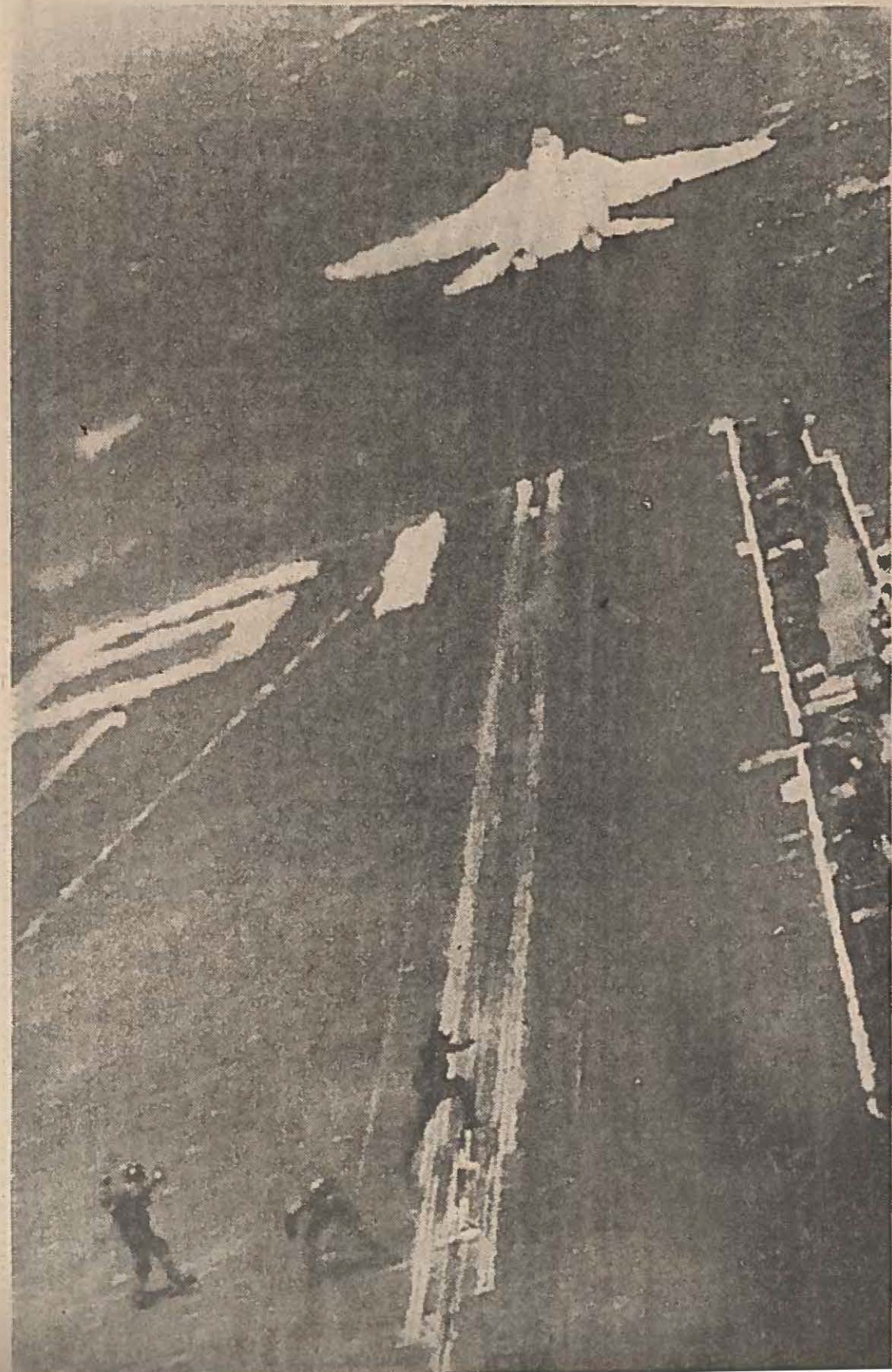


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# Focus/ the military

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The Honolulu Advertiser  
Friday, April 23, 1982



Ranger: With 86 aircraft and 5,000 men, it's the Navy's smallest carrier.

## RIMPAC!

**ABOARD THE USS RANGER** — The aircraft carrier Ranger took at least two "hits" from an "enemy" submarine during RIMPAC '82 naval war games, but probably could have avoided or survived a real attack, the U.S. battle group commander said yesterday.

Rear Adm. Arthur Moreau called the ongoing 60-ship exercise the "most successful" in its 10-year history.

Part of the maneuvers pitted the "blue" forces of Canada and Japan against the "orange" forces of Australia and New Zealand, with U.S. ships on both



**jim borg**

Advertiser military writer



Seen through shimmering heat waves from its exhaust, an aircraft is catapulted from the flight deck.



A jogger makes his way around the Ranger's flight deck. Three and a half circuits makes a mile.

anti-submarine warfare, he said.

"We underwent 'attack' more than once," Moreau said. "That's because (the attacking submarine) is with you 24 hours a day. So it would be unusual if it didn't happen."

Moreau praised the ship's defenses, adding that the eight participating submarines were attacked more than 75 times.

The RIMPAC exercises, involving five Pacific rim nations, began last month and will continue through next week in Hawaiian waters.

A key element of the maneuvers is shelling of the island of Kahoolawe by ships offshore. The island also was bombed by carrier-based aircraft, but Moreau said only dummy bombs were used this year.

Weather conditions were such that noise from live ordnance would have disturbed the residents of Maui, six miles away, he explained.

The 25-year-old Ranger is the smallest of the Navy's carriers, displacing 80,000 tons and spanning 1,071 feet. Based in San Diego, it has a crew of 5,000.

The carrier will visit Pearl Harbor when RIMPAC is over, then head for the western Pacific for six months.

The ship made headlines last year after the death of a seaman who was being disciplined in the correctional custody unit. Seaman Paul Trerice of Michigan died April 14, 1981, in the Philippines while performing disciplinary exercises after two days on bread and water.

The CCU and the ship's brig have since been abolished, said the Ranger's executive officer, Capt. Al Groman. Disciplinary penalties now typically involve fines and reductions in rank, he said.

"In the event of a court martial, the sailor is transferred to a brig ashore," Groman said. "Our

disciplinary problem is just going down like gangbusters."

The carrier was about 65 miles south of Oahu when planes were launched yesterday morning. According to Moreau, some of them made attack runs at Rohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island and at Kaula Rock, near Kauai.

Three catapults shot the planes aloft, accelerating the aircraft to 165 mph in three seconds and pushing the pilots into their seats with a force five times that of gravity.

From a layman's perspective, there were several hair-raising aborted landings, when planes came in too high, roared over the deck and back into the sky, to circle and try again. But the deck crew seemed to take them in stride.

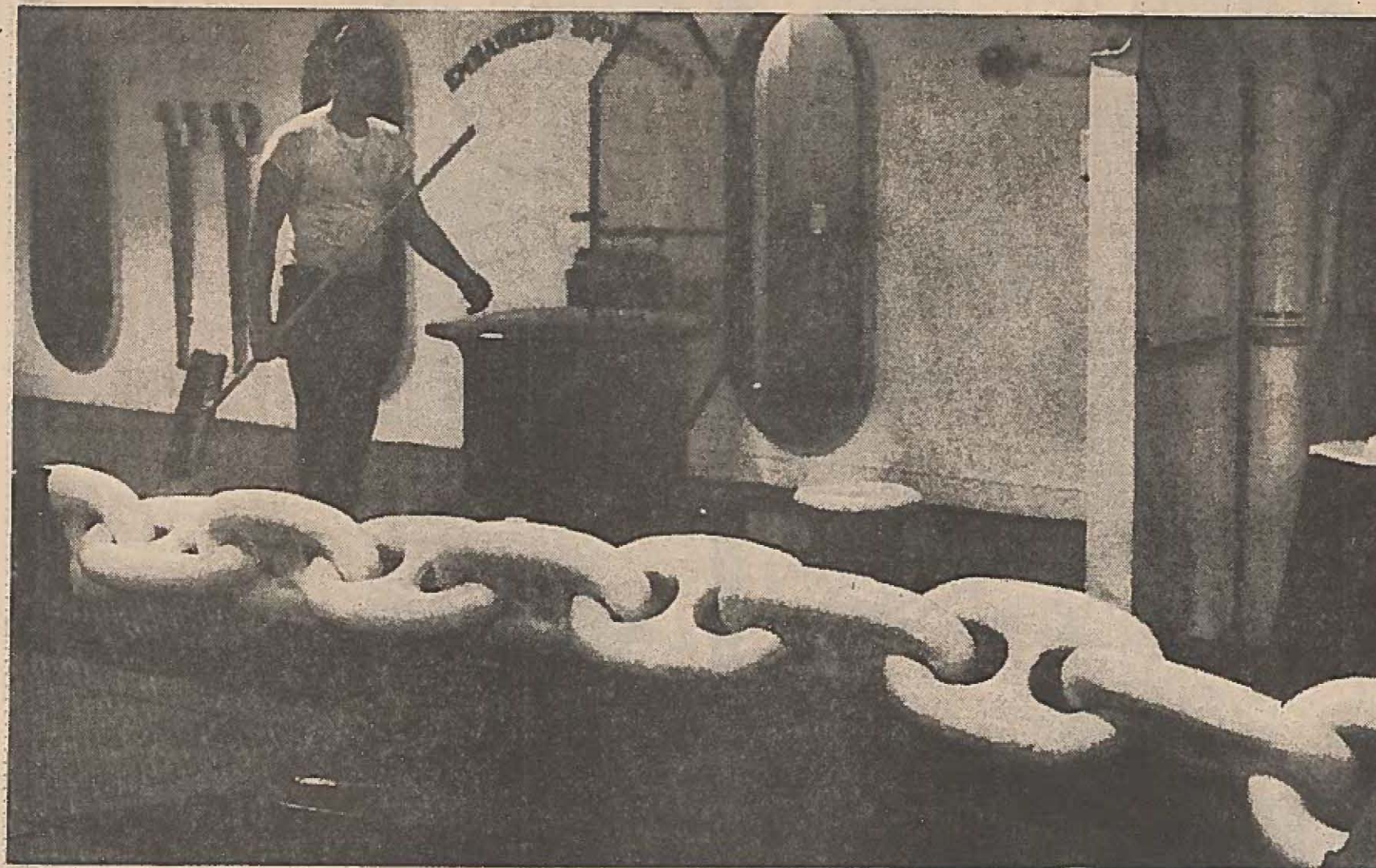
"It'll happen about once per landing, maybe less," said Lt. Wade Tallman, who flies A-7 Corsair jets. "You put on a little extra power for mom and the kids and take it around again. At night it happens a lot more."

During the launchings and landings, the ship throbbed with noise and activity. Heat from the jet engines turned parts of the deck into a sauna bath and exhaust fumes stung unprotected eyes.

The flight deck was a sea of colored jerseys, red, green, brown, yellow, white, purple, indicating the specialties of the crewmen.

The presence of 18 Japanese newsmen attested to the interest that RIMPAC holds in Japan, where offensive forces are outlawed by the constitution.

This is the second RIMPAC exercise for Japan and the first in which Japanese ships took part in live gunfire. Moreau called the Japanese forces "superb," adding he had "never seen a more highly skilled naval unit anywhere in the world."



The ship's 30-ton anchor is 1,128 feet long and each chain link weighs 360 pounds. When the anchor is dropped, the chain plays out at 120 mph.



That's an A-6 attack jet the crewman is leaning on.